

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A discharge lamp starter comprising:

a discharge lamp ~~that~~ which is lit at a luminance corresponding to a power supplied to the discharge lamp;

a first switch ~~and a second switch for turning~~ which turns on and off a power supply circuit; ~~and~~

a second switch which turns on and off the power supply circuit; and

a discharge lamp start control unit ~~for causing said~~ which causes the discharge lamp to ~~carry out~~ operate as a daytime running light when said if the discharge lamp start control unit receives a signal indicating an on state only from ~~said the~~ first switch, by supplying a first power to said the discharge lamp to start lighting of the discharge lamp operating as the daytime running light, followed by supplying a second power smaller than the first power to said the discharge lamp to maintain lighting of the discharge lamp operating as the daytime running light; and ~~for causing said~~ which causes the discharge lamp to ~~carry out~~ operate as a nighttime running light when said if the discharge lamp start control unit receives a signal indicating an on state ~~only from said the~~ second switch, by supplying a third power greater than the first power to said the discharge lamp to start lighting of the discharge lamp operating as the nighttime running

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light, followed by supplying a fourth power smaller than the third power and greater than the second power to ~~said the~~ discharge lamp to maintain lighting of the discharge lamp operating as the nighttime running light.

2. (currently amended): The discharge lamp starter according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ discharge lamp start control unit causes ~~said the~~ discharge lamp to ~~make~~ transition from operating as the daytime running light to operating as the nighttime running light ~~when said if the~~ discharge lamp start control unit receives the signal indicating the on state of ~~said the~~ second switch ~~during when the discharge lamp is operating as the daytime running light~~, by changing the power supplied to ~~said the~~ discharge lamp from the second power to the fourth power; and

wherein the discharge lamp start control unit causes ~~said the~~ discharge lamp to make transition from operating as the nighttime running light to operating as the daytime running light ~~when said if the~~ discharge lamp start control unit receives a signal indicating an off state of ~~said the~~ second switch ~~during when the discharge lamp is operating as the nighttime running light~~, by continuously reducing the power supplied to ~~said the~~ discharge lamp from the fourth power to the second power.

3. (currently amended): The discharge lamp starter according to claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ first switch is an ignition switch for starting a vehicle, and ~~said the~~ second switch is a lighting switch for turning on ~~headlights consisting of a headlight comprising~~ the discharge lamp.

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4. (new): A discharge lamp starter comprising:
- a discharge lamp which is lit at a luminance corresponding to a power supplied to the discharge lamp;
 - a first switch which turns on and off a power supply circuit;
 - a photodetector which turns on and off the power supply circuit, the photodetector turning off the power supply circuit if an amount of environmental illumination exceeds a predetermined threshold;
 - a discharge lamp start control unit which causes the discharge lamp to operate as a daytime running light if the discharge lamp start control unit receives a signal indicating an on state only from the first switch, by supplying a first power to the discharge lamp to start lighting of the discharge lamp operating as the daytime running light, followed by supplying a second power smaller than the first power to the discharge lamp to maintain lighting of the discharge lamp operating as the daytime running light; and which causes the discharge lamp to operate as a nighttime running light if the discharge lamp start control unit receives a signal indicating an on state from the photodetector, by supplying a third power greater than the first power to the discharge lamp to start lighting of the discharge lamp operating as the nighttime running light, followed by supplying a fourth power smaller than the third power and greater than the second power to the discharge lamp to maintain lighting of the discharge lamp operating as the nighttime running light.

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5. (new): The discharge lamp starter according to claim 4, wherein the discharge lamp start control unit causes the discharge lamp to transition from operating as the daytime running light to operating as the nighttime running light if the discharge lamp start control unit receives the signal indicating the on state of the photodetector when the discharge lamp is operating as the daytime running light, by changing the power supplied to the discharge lamp from the second power to the fourth power; and

wherein the discharge lamp start control unit causes the discharge lamp to transition from operating as the nighttime running light to operating as the daytime running light if the discharge lamp start control unit receives a signal indicating an off state of the photodetector when the discharge lamp is operating as the nighttime running light, by continuously reducing the power supplied to the discharge lamp from the fourth power to the second power.

6. (new): The discharge lamp starter according to claim 5, wherein the first switch is an ignition switch for starting a vehicle.